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BEWARE OF THE SWANS



Joe and his father went to the park. The park had a big pond. “Would you like to ride in a rowboat?” Joe’s father asked.

Joe’s father rowed out to the middle of the pond. Joe wanted to row. His father gave him the oars.

“You can row well,” said Joe’s father. “You hold the oars evenly.” Joe rowed near some swans. They had long necks. They were very pretty.

“Swans are very strong,” Joe’s father said. “They can break your arm. Don’t get too close.”

But Joe got too close. The biggest swan hissed. It flapped its big wings. It swam near their boat.

“Here, Dad, you row,” said Joe. He gave his father the oars. His father rowed fast. The swan chased them.

“Faster! Hurry!” Joe shouted. “The swan is getting closer. Keep rowing! Don’t stop!”

Joe’s father rowed fast. The swan stopped chasing them. It swam away. Joe was scared, but his father was calm.

“The swan has babies,” Joe’s father explained. “We got too close. It just wanted to protect its cygnets. Parents always want to protect their babies.”



Name _____ Date _____

Answer the questions about *BEWARE OF THE SWANS*

1. What is the story about?
 - a. a boy rows a boat
 - b. ducks at a lake
 - c. a boat chases a swan
 - d. a swan chases a boat
2. What are baby swans called?
 - a. Swanlings
 - b. Swanlets
 - c. Cygnets
 - d. Chicklets
3. Why can a swan be dangerous?
 - a. Swans are mean.
 - b. Swans are strong.
 - c. Swans can fly.
 - d. Swans eat boats.
4. "Cygnet" is a special word that means "young swan". What other special words do you know for the young of other animals?



Name _____ Date _____

Answers to *BEWARE OF THE SWANS*

1. d

2. c

3. b

4. answers will vary

